

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1073

By Holt

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Bethel University roller hockey team on its recent national championship.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to specially recognize those sports teams which, through their commitment to the pursuit of excellence and their athletic achievements, have served to bring honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Bethel University's roller hockey team is one such team which recently captured the national championship title for that incredible sport; and

WHEREAS, though only founded last year, the fledgling Bethel roller hockey team has achieved a great deal of success over the past two seasons; and

WHEREAS, while playing their first year in Division II, the team won the Southeast Collegiate Roller Hockey League (SECRHL) Championship and advanced to the semifinals of the national tournament; and

WHEREAS, the 2011-2012 season brought even greater accomplishments for the Bethel men. After moving up to the hallowed ranks of Division I, the team tallied a season record of twenty-five wins against only five losses, ran off a winning streak that stretched to an incredible seventeen games, captured the SECRHL regional title, and won the roller hockey national title; and

WHEREAS, while playing in the national tournament, the Bethel team faced, and defeated, the teams from Ohio State University, the University of Missouri at St. Louis, California State University at Long Beach, and Eastern Michigan University to make it to the final game, in which Bethel downed the University of Nevada at Las Vegas team by the score of four to three; and

WHEREAS, led by the coaching acumen of Matt Swinea, head coach, and aided in no small fashion by the ministrations of athletic trainer Brittany Burkett, the men of the Bethel University roller hockey team serve as an inspiration to the staff, faculty, and students of the university, their fans, and their community; and

WHEREAS, the members of the national championship team are: Evan Reams, Cory Roberts, Josh Foote, Ryne Potts, Chris Roberts, Andrew Ball, Markis Cardwell, Cole Sonstelie, Austin Comperry, Ewen MacPherson, Taylor Lachance, Matt Sikes, Kekoa Latimore, John Thompson, and John David Russell; and

WHEREAS, in the category of total points throughout the season, Josh Foote finished fifth in the country with eighty (forty goals and forty assists) and Cole Sonstelie finished seventeenth in the nation with seventy (forty-seven goals and twenty-three assists), while keeper Ewen MacPherson led the country in the category of goaltending wins with twenty-five; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Bethel team have served as inimitable ambassadors of their school and of the State of Tennessee, and it is wholly fitting that this body formally recognize the team for its incredible success during the 2011-2012 season; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate and commend the coach, trainer, and players of the Bethel University roller hockey team upon their capture of the 2012 national championship title, extending our best wishes for their continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.